
Mathematics People

Ramanan Receives Third World Academy of Sciences Award

The Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) has presented its 2001 Award in Mathematics to SUNDARARAMAN RAMANAN of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India, for contributions to algebraic geometry and differential geometry, in particular for his study of the moduli spaces of vector bundles on curves.

The TWAS annually awards five prizes of \$10,000 each to scientists from developing countries who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of basic sciences: biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics, and basic medical sciences.

—From a TWAS announcement

2002 Dirac Medals Awarded

The 2002 Dirac Medals of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) have been awarded to ALAN GUTH (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), ANDREI LINDE (Stanford University), and PAUL STEINHARDT (Princeton University) for the development of the concept of inflation in cosmology. The award citation reads: “Although the history of the very early universe has not been firmly established, the idea of inflation has already had notable observational successes, and it has become the paradigm for fundamental studies in cosmology. While the possibility of an exponential expansion of the early universe had been noted before, it was Guth who realized that inflation would solve some of the major problems confronting the big bang cosmology. Difficulties with the

original inflationary model were recognized by Guth and others, and were overcome with the introduction of ‘new’ inflation by Linde and Steinhardt (with Albrecht). Linde went on to propose other promising versions of inflationary theory, such as chaotic inflation. The greatest success of inflationary theory has been in accounting for the existence of inhomogeneities in the universe and predicting their spectrum, done by Guth (with Pi), Steinhardt (with Bardeen and Turner), as well as Hawking and Starobinsky.”

The ICTP awarded its first Dirac Medal in 1985. Given in honor of P. A. M. Dirac, the medal is awarded annually on Dirac’s birthday, August 8, to an individual who has made significant contributions to theoretical physics and mathematics. The medalists also receive a prize of US\$5,000. An international committee of distinguished scientists selects the winners from a list of nominated candidates. The Dirac Medal is not awarded to Nobel Laureates or Wolf Foundation Prize winners.

—From an ICTP announcement

Petters Awarded First Blackwell-Tapia Prize

ARLIE O. PETTERS of Duke University has been chosen as the recipient of the first Blackwell-Tapia Prize of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) and Cornell University. He works in mathematical physics, and his major research interests include the development of a rigorous mathematical theory of light deflection in gravitational fields and the investigation of the observational consequences of the theorems in such a theory.

The prize, honoring David Blackwell and Richard A. Tapia, will be presented every other year to a mathematical scientist who has contributed significantly to his or her field of expertise and who has served as a role model

for mathematical scientists and students from underrepresented minority groups or who has contributed in other significant ways to addressing the problem of the underrepresentation of minorities in mathematics.

—*From an MSRI announcement*

B. H. Neumann Awards Given

The B. H. Neumann Awards for 2002 have been awarded by the Board of the Australian Mathematics Trust to ROGER CURNOW, University of Canberra, and SHEILA WILLIAMS, University of Queensland. The awards, named for Bernhard H. Neumann, are presented each year to mathematicians who have made important contributions over many years to the enrichment of mathematics learning in Australia and its region.

—*Board of the Australian Mathematics Trust*

German Mathematical Society Media Prize

The Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung (DMV, German Mathematical Society) awarded its first Media Prize on July 25, 2002, to GERO VON RANDOW, editor of the science section of the Sunday edition of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (FAZ). The FAZ is one of the leading newspapers in Germany. The citation for the prize reads: "In recognition of his prominent oeuvre as a journalist and writer, which has in particular advanced the appreciation of mathematics among the general public, the DMV awards to Gero von Randow the 2002 Media Prize." The prize carries a cash award of 5,000 euros (about US\$5,000).

—*Allyn Jackson*

China Finishes First in International Mathematical Olympiad

The team from China won six gold medals and compiled a team score of 212 at the 2002 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) held in Glasgow, Scotland, July 19–30, 2002. Russia also finished with six gold medals and a team score of 204, and the United States followed with four gold medals, one silver medal, and one honorable mention for a team score of 171.

The six members of the U.S. team, all high-school students, were PO-RU LOH (Madison, Wisconsin), gold medalist; TIANKAI LIU (Saratoga, California), gold medalist; RICKY LIU (Newton, Massachusetts), gold medalist; DANIEL KANE (Madison, Wisconsin), gold medalist; ANDERS KASEORG (Charlotte, North Carolina), silver medalist; and ALEX XUE

(Chandler, Arizona), honorable mention. Po-Ru Loh tied for second place overall in total number of individual points.

The team was chosen on the basis of the students' performance in the 2002 USA Mathematical Olympiad. The students attended a four-week Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, over the past summer under the leadership of Titu Andreescu, director of the American Mathematics Competitions. The USA Mathematical Olympiad is a program of the Mathematical Association of America and is sponsored by the Akamai Foundation and the University of Nebraska. More information is available on the official scoring site of the IMO at <http://www.imo2002.com/>.

—*Elaine Kehoe*